

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic composition, comprising:

surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and

an anti-perspiring component,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group,

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and

wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to ~~[[50]]~~ less than 10 μm .

Claims 2-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 11, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling perspiration, comprising:
applying a composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and an anti-perspiring component onto the skin,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group,

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and

wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to ~~[[50]]~~ less than 10 μm .~~[[.]]~~

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

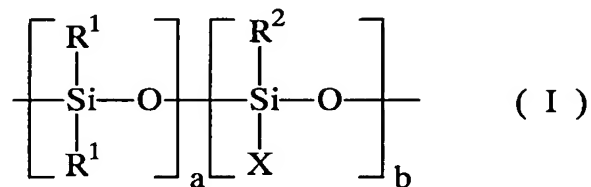
Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked copolymer comprising polymerized hydrophilic vinyl monomers.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked poly(meth)acrylate.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound has at least one of an amino and an ammonium group.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):

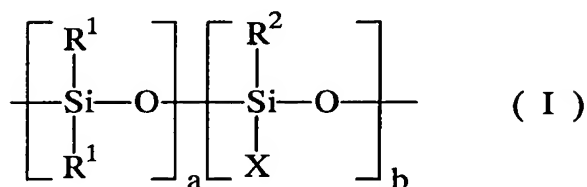


wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of R^1 's may be the same or different; R^2 represents R^1 or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by $-\text{R}^3-\text{Z}$ wherein R^3 represents a direct bond or a C_{1-20} divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary

ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 30, wherein the R^1 groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, R^3 is a C_{1-6} linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 23, wherein the silicone compound is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of R^1 's may be the same or different; R^2 represents R^1 or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by $-R^3-Z$ wherein R^3 represents a direct bond or a C_{1-20} divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 32, wherein the R^1 groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} hydrocarbon group, R^3 is a C_{1-6} linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group is a silicone compound having at least 2 silicon atoms.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anti-perspiring component is present in an amount of from 10 to 30% by weight.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the anti-perspiring component is present in an amount of from 10 to 30% by weight.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a stick antiperspirant;

wherein the cosmetic composition further comprises a silicone carrier, and

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and the anti-perspiring component are dispersed in the silicone carrier.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is present in the largest amount based on the total weight of the cosmetic composition.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is a cyclomethicone and the anti-perspiring component is an aluminum compound.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is at least one of a low-polymerized dimethylpolysiloxane and a cyclic siloxane.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 23, wherein the cosmetic composition is applying in the form of a stick antiperspirant comprising a silicone carrier, and wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and the anti-perspiring component are dispersed in the silicone carrier.

Claim 42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5 μm .

Claim 44 (Canceled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5 μm .